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Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 15 Jun

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday and the deputies from Esfahan, Damavand, Firuzkuh, Tehran and Shahr-e Kord gave speeches. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles gave a speech concerning the anniversary of the establishment of the reconstruction crusade. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct your attention to the details.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

Mr. Nateq-Nuri gave a speech at yesterday's open Majles session on the occasion of the anniversary of the reconstruction crusade. He said: In forming this sacred organization on the orders of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), sincere forces from various walks of life throughout the country who love to serve and follow the exalted Imam were gathered, and without being asked at all they began doing constructive work. Especially in those very first days, what was on the minds of these sincere devotees was the nation's deprived areas and its poor and oppressed people. In the very first months, these people went to Kordestan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormozegan and the Jask area, and even the discovery of the Bashagerd area was done by these devoted and sincere people.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then added: In Kordestan, in the insecure situation where the counterrevolution wa. trying to make the people pessimistic about the government and the Islamic system, their analysis was that if these crusaders came to Kordestan they would build roads, lay water pipelines, build baths and make the people happy and consequently make the people favor the government, and therefore they had to be opposed. Under those circumstances our dear ones did most of their work in the Kurdish areas. This sacred organization gave its first martyrs in Kordestan, the first of whom were martyrs Engineer Tavazo'i and Engineer Torkan.

The Majles speaker discussed the services of the reconstruction crusade in the imposed war. He said: At the onset of the imposed war, this sacred organization put all its resources in the service of the war, and the reconstruction crusade was responsible for most of the engineering in the war. After the war, it actively continued working on the reconstruction. The reconstruction crusade is a source of pride for this government and revolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Nateq-Nuri honored the memory of the martyrs of the reconstruction crusade and he praised and thanked the crusading dear ones for their services.

Mehdi Ezheyi, Deputy From Esfahan

I ask the president of the republic that in the nation's management system, especially at the levels where there is contact with the people, Islamic ethics and humility should prevail.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mehdi Ezheyi, from the Esfahan electoral district. During his speech he commemorated the memory of the martyrs of Islam and offered thanks for the extensive participation of the people in the elections. He said: In the nation's Second Five-Year Plan, I ask the president of the republic to give more attention to the exalted Islamic values and to the struggle against the cultural invasion, and in the nation's management system, especially at the levels where there is contact with the people, Islamic ethics, a respectful attitude with humility and simple living should prevail.

He added: Whoever cannot observe these things should either resign or you should fire him. The damage these kinds of people cause is no less than the damage caused by enemy plots. With the support of public confidence, you must prevent whatever feeds the market for extravagance and the love of ostentation, for this is what is expected of a person like yourself.

Because the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic is supervised by the exalted leader and is organized based on the Constitution, in addition to the fact that political efforts are made to protect relationships and good neighborly relations with nations that do not seek domination and intervention, it was validated by the late Imam and the exalted leader of the revolution. The Iranian nation defends the liberation and Islamic movements, it affirms the liberation crusade of the Muslim nation of Palestine and it defends the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The deputy from Esfahan then explained: International criminals cannot hide behind the mask of defending human rights, and they cannot hide defense of the truth behind a mask of terrorism. Even the Government of Saudi Arabia's prevention of the pilgrimage rites at Mecca purge the polytheists cannot stay the nation of Iran and the Muslims from the path they have chosen.

He said the agriculture industry is an important foundation of economic independence and for saving the nation from dependence on foreign crops. He said: During the era of economic adjustment and establishing a unified foreign exchange rate, one must be aware of the effects of this on the lives of farmers. Making a prof t must not be the sole goal of programs, and at the same time special attention is required by the transforming industries, and in the province of Esfahan little attention has been given to this.

In the government industries sector, huge sums are spent that are outside the budget, but in the other industries, under current circumstances there are problems, and the regulations and laws on revenues and payments written for the era of government control and the 70-rial [Rls] dollar must be reduced. Now, when most government wages are paid with Rls1,600 dollars, measures must be taken so that factories can stand up on their own.

He discussed the problem of environmental pollution. He said that the air and water pollution in Zayandehrud is caused by urban sewage, and announced that this

matter needs investigation. He noted that the Esfahan slaughterhouse is in a residential area, and it adds to the environmental pollution.

Seyyed Ahmad Rasulinezhad, Deputy From Damavand and Firuzkuh

Now is the time for the president of the republic to fulfill his obligation to the people by choosing worthy consultants and deputies who obey the leader.

The next speaker was Rasulinezhad, deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh. In his speech he praised the people for their extensive participation in the elections for president of the republic. He said: The heroic and alert nation of Iran was victorious in obeying the late Imam's will and the commands of the exalted leader through its turnout for the elections. Now is time for the officials and government leaders to act, and at the head of the executive power is the president of the republic himself, who will fulfill his obligation to the patient and faithful people of Islamic Iran by choosing experienced and worthy deputies, consultants and ministers.

He added: Mister president of the republic! Most existing problems must be attributed to weak management, unworthiness, and in reality the inability of many ministers, the lack of conformity of views of the economic ministers and some members of the Economic Council to the Islamic economy and the views of the leader, the distance between a number of people in official positions and the people, concern for material pleasures and welfare and lack of concern for the concerned reminders from the leader, and the failure to enjoin good and prohibit evil. How is it that 15 years after the triumph of the revolution, in Tehran we must witness the growth of such mansions in the northern areas and the existence of the shacks of the oppressed in south Tehran, and certainly my respected colleagues have seen the pictures of those in the last few days in the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI. Unfortunately, one must accept that the gap between the gold hoarders and capitalists and the deprived, these true heirs to the revolution, grows larger each day.

Shedding blood, giving martyrs, presenting fighters to the Islamic revolution on the part of those oppressed people, and lives lived immersed in pleasure, passion, and glamor on the part of those bullying capitalists who are comfortable and well-off, and who have eaten and slept: really, to what extent have we been able to divide the public treasury equally?

He added: How is it that today the same people who yesterday were chanting slogans about supporting the oppressed and fighting the painlessly well-off are sitting down to sumptuous meals, riding in the latest model automobiles and living like kings, while even now we need bread, stand waiting for buses for hours, and run after taxis, lay down hungry at night, and warnings are given to the ministers, the officials and we deputies ourselves, that the greatest disaster is to distance ourselves from the people and become immersed in material pleasures?

Mister president of the republic, on your current cabinet there are ministers who act on the basis of factionalism, in addition to individuals whose competence to be Majles deputies was rejected by the Guardian Council, or who were punished by the leader during the Third Majles. Individuals have been employed because of being in the same faction and political line and not because of worthiness and competence, and problem upon problem has been heaped upon the government, and the majority of the people and the deputies will not tolerate such ministers in the future cabinet.

Mister president of the republic, it is hard for us and the people that an individual has been beside you leading and directing secret meetings in the cities of the province of Tehran. Among his activities was starting a disturbance for the sake of emulating some gentleman in the Third Majles. Then recently there was the staging of disturbances in organizational meetings in the presence of dependent elements. Now such a person, while being present in the Majles, defends the government's bill. The government must be an unconditional defender of the religous ruler.

In conclusion, he praised the services of the crusaders.

'Abbas'ali 'Amid-Zanjani, Deputy From Tehran

If we take a concerned look, today there is little to be seen of two basic principles at various levels of management, meaning meekness and openmindedness.

'Amid-Zanjani, deputy from Tehran, was the third pre-agenda speaker. He discussed the results of the sixth election for president of the republic. He said: We have nothing to say to our enemies and we expect nothing from them, because one never expects vengeful enemies to see the truth and to state it the way it is. They are determined in their enmity and they have adopted new phases in their rancor. However, concerned friends of the revolution must keep in mind the two principles of fairness and interests. Analyses can point the way, but one must never abandon fairness or ignore the necessary interests.

He added: Today we are in circumstances where imperialism does nothing other than engage in direct confrontation. It is true that in the past war conditions were imposed on us, but confrontation was indirect. Today, however, imperialism, with its vengeful and angry face, acts in confrontation with its enemies.

Without a doubt, the result of the votes of the people fortunately brings us to the conclusion that as in the past public involvement is still active and continuing, with concern about the values of the revolution.

The deputy from Tehran then said: It is possible that some people will analyze the election by saying that the more than 30 percent who did not vote for him were stating their opposition to him, but if we are fair, it could have another meaning.

The other meaning is that these people wanted to give a warning to Mr. Hashemi that he must open a new

window to the people, telling him that he must breathe the same air the people are breathing and get closer to the people.

Another meaning is that those in opposition wanted to say that the path being taken today has weaknesses in management, which must be corrected. If we take a concerned look, today there is little to be seen of two basic principles at various levels of management, meaning meekness and openmindedness.

When officials meet with the people at various levels of management, they must keep humility in mind. They must not think that they are dealing with ignorant and uneducated people. Expertise is important, and the principle of confidence in expertise must not make us forget the views of the people, even if they are expressed in obscene terms and in inexpert attacks.

'Amid-Zanjani emphasized: Sometimes the vernacular language used by the people expressing their ideas can be significant. Listening to what the people have to say, no matter how ignorant it may be, is one of the basic qualifications of Islamic management.

I am simply saying, just as the statistics and figures have shown, for the 29 million potential voters in the country, weren't the same number of tariffs printed? Wasn't the same number of tariffs provided for the noble people throughout the country?

Did the media do its duty in presenting the activities of the government? Did the public relations offices of the ministries act properly in presenting the work of their ministerial domains? If we answer these three questions properly, we will be able to make a proper analysis of the message from the opposition.

'Ali Mobini, Deputy From Shahr-e Kord

Administrative revolution requires deeper thought and more speed and decisiveness.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was 'Ali Mobini, deputy from Shahr-e Kord. He offered congratulations on Jihad Week and the reelection of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the republic. He said: We believe that the nation's constructive movement, using the experience gained in the years after the revolution and especially in the past four years, will serve to achieve social justice and public welfare more quickly, and that the demands of the people, which include support for the deprived and the oppressed, fighting the cultural invasion, appropriate and balanced growth for the nation's various areas, the development and progress of education and research and political authority for the country, will also be given consideration.

Among the things to be achieved in the next four years, he mentioned the employment of youth, the complete elimination of illiteracy, strengthening the spirit of labor, frugality and contentment and reform of the complex and intricate executive system.

He said: World imperialism is using all its ability and resources to limit the Islamic revolution, and to keep it from achieving its exalted goals, and pretexts such as human rights, fighting terrorism and economic embargo are all aimed at stopping the influence and power of Islam, the growing Islamic movement and the awareness of the Muslims of the world. Therefore, we must deal with the basic issues of society, the people and the country with courage, bravery, wisdom, proper thinking and a view to the future, and we must move with firm determination and strong will to solve problems.

He also said: One of the problems of society and a great difficulty in the Islamic revolution is the complicated administrative and executive system, which needs revolutionary and decisive steps to solve the problems of this rotten and sickly system, which is a remnant of the idolaters.

In this regard, Mr. Mobini noted: In the First Five-Year Plan the Supreme Administrative Council made provisions for this great goal, and, praise God, steps were taken to reform procedures, but administrative revolution requires deeper thought and more speed and decisiveness, and this demands time and great ability from all government officials in the three powers, especially the executive and legislative powers.

He said that movement in the direction of economic adjustment is the nation's most important problem after economic reconstruction. In this regard he said: The structure of this inherited system needs study and thought in various dimensions. In general it may be said that complicated organizations with little ability, dry and crippling regulations, the low morale for work, the imbalanced and uncoordinated responsibilities in the organizations, making an end of the means, uncoordinated and parallel responsibilities, excessive workers, the huge size of administrative organizations, the costliness of the administrative system, and the concentration of prerogatives in the center of the country, all these things demand comprehensive change, which means changing all but a small number of procedures and this is more reform than it is evolution.

He also discussed the fact that the administrative organizations, structures and systems are a basis for expediting affairs, not a huge obstacle to development and achieving the nation's planning goals, and this issue must be a top priority for the activities of the new government. He said: Have we thought about where the administrative system is going in the future? What program do we have to reform it in view of the policies of economic adjustment? In the nation's First Social and Economic Development Plan, did we have an increase or a decrease in government manpower? What was the nature of the manpower adjustment? What reports did the respected government present to the Majles in this regard? Do the esteemed and distinguished ministers, who are the nation's supreme managers, have an appropriate analysis of the organizations under their supervision and responsibility, in view of the government's responsibilities and the time of reconstruction?

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr. Mobini proposed the following as joint measures to be taken by the government and the Majles as effective ways to reform the administrative structure:

1 - The respected president of the republic, a beloved individual who has the confidence of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, the Majles and the pious people, must give full attention to the selection of ministers who believe in administrative reform and revolution.

2 - A joint committee composed of fully authorized representatives of the government and deputies chosen from the Majles must be formed to prepare and approve appropriate projects and bills for changing and reforming the nation's administrative structure, to be given to the government for implementation.

3 - The duties of the government, which are designated in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, must be given attention and basic tasks that cannot be done by society must be turned over to the government, and the process of privatization must be explained.

4 - The respected president of the republic should have a manpower deputy, for the purpose of study, identification and complete research, taking into account regulations and competence and worthiness to identify, select and train capable individuals to manage the country at all the high and middle levels and in executive, economic, staff and political matters, in order to reduce the nation's existing management losses.

5 - The Majles and the government must work together to examine the nation's system of evaluation, study and investigation, and if there are bottlenecks in this area, they must eliminate them so that violators can be dealt with by applying strong supervision and full evaluation. They must encourage those who are serving and the nation's executive system must have the necessary ability to provide services.

He thanked the president of the republic for his attention to independent water in the province and for starting construction on the Shahr-e Kord airport. He asked him for suitable credit assistance for those building this airport, so this deprived area will have suitable air travel resources.

He also asked the minister of culture and Islamic guidance and the minister of housing and urban development, in view of the agreeable climate and the beautiful views in the municipality of Shahr-e Kord, to provide suitable resources to this region for creating a tourism development organization and for building resort and tourist towns.

In conclusion, he issued a memo to the minister of agriculture about expediting the formation of agricultural and industrial production, and promoting and developing cooperatives in the municipality of Shahr-e Kord.

Legislation

Details of the Free-Trade Zones Administration Bill

The second item on the agenda was continued consideration of the details of the Free-Trade and Industrial Zones Administration Procedures Bill of the Islamic Republic of Iran, two more articles of which were discussed and approved by the deputies.

Based on Article 10, the organization in each zone is authorized, with the approval of the Supreme Council, to form the necessary companies in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Law.

Article 11: The organization and its affiliated companies are authorized to sign the necessary contracts with domestic and foreign real and legal persons, and to participate with domestic and foreign investors to carry out development and production projects. Differences and disputes arising from the contracts signed will be investigated, solved and resolved in accordance with contract agreements and commitments between the two sides.

Very Urgent Motion To Guarantee Purchases of Basic Agricultural Crops

The third item on the agenda was the proposed law to amend the Guaranteed Purchase of Basic Agricultural Crops Law, enacted 1368/6/21 [12 September 1989], presented as a very urgent motion.

In explaining the motion's very urgent status, Parviz Seyqoli said: The reason for the motion's very urgent status is the Majles summer recess next week, which will last one month. On the other hand, based on past years, growers want to take their crops to market, and the time for marketing begins these days, meaning just when the Majles recesses. Previously the government bought crops at previously announced guaranteed prices.

Support from the government was so that the government itself would get into the market during these days. It competed with the private sector and the real price of a kilogram of merchandise showed itself well, and the grower was not hurt. In the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] the government did not make a good appearance and thus the prices of crops dropped. This year also the government is not there to buy crops from growers, as it did in past years, and the private sector does not have the desire to buy them. Therefore, with passage of the motion, growers will be protected and will not be hurt.

After talks by opponents and supporters, the very urgent status of the motion was put to a vote and approved.

At yesterday's open Majles session, the decision was made that the Majles recess would take place in the first half of the month of Tir [22 Jun-7 Jul] and the second half of the month of Shahrivar [8-22 Oct].

Question From Dr. 'Abbaspur, Deputy From Tehran

- The quantity and quality of university graduates
- The large number of conditional students, especially in the technical and engineering fields

- The low number of graduates compared to the number of admissions

Minister of Culture and Higher Education's Answer

- The increase in the number of students from deprived areas compared to the total number of students
- The policy of quotas in the admissions tests and in the selection of students
- The unregulated use in private universities of teachers paid by teacher's fees from government universities
- Our graduation rate has increased between the years 1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90] and 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994]

Dr. 'Abbaspur's Question to the Minister of Culture and Higher Education

In his question to Dr. Mo'in, Dr. 'Abbaspur said during a speech: What is the situation with university graduates in terms of quantity and quality? It is necessary to mention that a full explanation of the question has been given to the minister in the Higher Education Commission, asking him to further clarify the low number of graduates compared to the number of admissions in the pertinent year, the high number of conditional students in the universities, especially in the technical and engineering fields, and the reason why the respected Ministry of Culture and Higher Education has not taken the steps necessary to solve these problems.

He then added: The studies that have been made show that our system of higher education does not have a suitable yield, and among students who enter the universities, in reality the length of the term of study is longer and the number of dropouts and conditional students in the universities is high. The question is, has the respected minister been aware of this, and if he has, what steps have been taken to alleviate the problem? Of course at times parameters have been given such as the growth rate in the number of graduates, and in reality the growth rate in the number of graduates is meaningless.

Answer From the Minister of Culture and Higher Education

In answer to the question from the deputy from Tehran, Dr. Mo'in gave a speech in which he said: The importance of higher education requires that qualitative studies in policymaking, planning, and on the accomplishments of higher education in their academic, cultural dimensions be coordinated and connected and that they be done with logical and realistic criteria. The nation's higher education has officially and unavoidably grown from a capacity of 75,000 students in the year 1356 [21 Mar 1977-20 Mar 1978] to more than 800,000 students in the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993], has also been able to show a valuable and praiseworthy growth in quality.

Dr. Mo'in added: We do not confine quality just to the academic aspects. We also take into account the cultural, social, and revolutionary aspects. On the other hand, to achieve social justice in higher education basic steps must be taken to change the structure of the nation's system of higher education, and this was another of the government's important successes in the First Five-Year Plan. The development of the universities and centers of higher education in all the nation's provinces with priority to the deprived areas in the last four years has brought about a significant increase in the percentage of students from the deprived areas out of the total number of students in the country.

For example, the number of research projects by university professors and researchers increased during this same period from 120 research projects in the year 1356 [21 Mar 1977-20 Mar 1978] to more than 3,838 research projects approved in the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993]. With the very successful development of higher and specialist degree programs in the 529 programs and the admission of 18,633 students during the years of the plan, the number of academic and research letters of completion submitted increased from 960 in the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] to 4,262 in the year 1371. Definitely, the completion of more than 10,000 research projects in the years of the Five-Year Plan is an important guarantee for the progress, academic advancement, technology and the achievement of comprehensive independence for the Islamic nation.

In the same regard, to alleviate deprivation in cultural education, the number of Payam-e Nur university centers has increased from 13 centers with 4,370 students in the first year of the Five-Year Plan to 80 centers with more than 60,992 students in the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993].

Dr. Mo'in also added: On the other hand, the presence of tens of sacrificing basiji students, former prisoners of war and veterans of the revolution, as well as the suffering and committed children of the nation's deprived areas at various levels in the government universities, has meant that more than 70 percent of the capacity of the universities is being used for the real owners of the revolution.

It is very good news that through government use of the opportunities offered by these dear ones, committed and skilled cadres and managers are being procured for the government's future. Therefore, assessing and judging the academic quality in the universities cannot easily done just on the basis of one factor. Attention must be given together to all the changes that have taken place in the policies of student admission, guidelines, educational programs, research activities, incentives for professor effort and university management, and as well as the order and peace that we have in the educational complexes.

The minister of culture and higher education mentioned the length of time university students spend studying and the change in the percentage of students in the various educational groups as factors that have an effect on the weakness of education.

He said the average grade for high-school graduates taking the college admissions examination in the last

four years is lower than 15. He said: In recent years we have given attention to reinforcing the preuniversity programs in the deprived areas, as well as to establishing preuniversity complexes.

Another factor is the nation's policies and regulations in the selection of students. The quota policy in admissions testing at the universities, which has been required in the last few years, has caused an increase in the length of time spent studying and the percentage of conditional students, especially since when these students first enter the university, one to two half-years of remedial studies is provided to them.

We consider the presence of those have sacrificed in the universities a qualitative improvement to the university, both culturally and academically.

He discussed student economic issues. He said: Like it or not, the necessity for them to work and the shortage of welfare facilities will have their negative effects on the students. The fourth factor is the unregulated use in private universities of teachers paid by teacher's fees from government universities, which has caused a decline in the quality of teaching. For example, the main burden of teaching more than 300,000 students at the Free University and the more than 145,000 students in the equivalent programs that have been authorized by the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization without coordination with the nation's Ministry of Culture and Higher Education has effectively fallen on the shoulders of the faculty in our universities. Of course, the quality of the nongovernment unregulated use in private universities of teachers paid by teacher's fees from government universities can also be evaluated, and we will give an official report.

He listed as exceptions to these centers Emam Sadeq (peace be upon him) University, the Useful Technologies University and the Martyr's Higher School. He said: The quality of teaching at these universities, in view of the fact that they observe the nation's regulations for higher education, is defensible.

He said that the final factor affecting the level of teaching in the universities is the special problems and issues from the period of the imposed war. He said: The growth in the number of conditional students between the years 1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986] and 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990], especially in the year 1366 [21 Mar 1987-20 Mar 1988], which was due to the repeated sending of students to the fronts and the program to send every student to the fronts for six months, and the bombing of the cities meant that during this period we had a huge dropout rate among students, but fortunately, after the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990] the dropout rate among students declined tremendously and we have had a growth in enrollments.

Further Remarks by Dr. 'Abbaspur

In reality, in this portion of his remarks the minister made a generalization, saying that since the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990] we have not had an issue with requirements. I know a university for which documentation exists showing that in the year 1368, which is one year after the end of the war, after four terms it was only able to operate an average of 44 teaching units. That is, on average it operated 11 units per term. If it progresses at the same rate, that will mean that those admitted in the year 1368 to this university will need to spend seven years getting their degrees.

He added: The average four-term load for these students is 12.8 units, and 70 percent of these students are required to attend one term every four terms. Another 29 percent are required to attend two terms every four terms, and 8 percent are required to attend three terms every four terms.

He noted: These statistics are not confined to the period between 1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986] and 1368. Rather, they pertain to admissions for the year 1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 1990].

He said: In another university, of those admitted in the year 1366 [21 Mar 1987-20 Mar 1988] in engineering, after five years only 25 percent were able to graduate. That is, 75 percent of those admitted in the year 1366 to this university are either still at the university, or have dropped out.

In the same regard he added: Those admitted in the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] to this university in technical and engineering fields actually entered the university at the end of the war, and after four years, only 6 percent of them were able to graduate.

He said: Based on studies that have been done, on average it appears that although I said at the beginning of my remarks that our universities have a production rate of 70 percent, in the engineering field, which is where our needs lie, it is even less than this, dropping to at least 50 and 55 percent. This 30-percent educational drop is understandable in view of the budget that we allocated to the respected Ministry of Culture and Higher Education in the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994], where in that part of the development budgets we cut back 5 to 10 billion tomans on financial and energy costs.

He emphasized: We must have an ample budget in the government and nongovernment sectors. In the nongovernment sector, the student enters the university and pays his own expenses, and if he drops out, the money comes out of the student's pocket. In the government sector however, it is national capital and government money, and each time someone drops out and does not complete his studies, in reality this is considered a loss for the university, apart from the fact that a talented person who was outside the university could have been admitted, and was deprived of study.

In the study of the problems and factors in the low productivity of the universities, he said: In my view, it is perhaps not correct for us to come and blame the Ministry of Education and Training, because the minister of education and training says we have no strong degree program for teaching, and the minister of higher

education says we have no proper and sound students, and in reality what is left for the nation is a system of higher education that yields no return.

He said: We really want a society and system of higher education that have high yields, where the students graduate with high knowledge and commitment.

Concerning the term of study, Dr. 'Abbaspur said: In reality, the period of higher education in the First Five-Year Plan made no difference in terms of the number of units. In the year 1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986], students had to take 162 units, and this decreased to 132 units. Thus, there was no change in the number of units that would allow us to say that the increase in the number of units caused an increase in the length of the term of study.

In conclusion, he said: The qualifications for conditional students has been discussed several times in the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, and the necessary decision to make it easier for them to continue studying has been made.

Additional Answer From Dr. Mo'in

These statistics and figures are not current, and in reality we have 700 files on conditional students, and when we add in the 6,000 students in that entire university, this is only 11 percent, meaning that this does not support that 30-percent statistic.

He said: Throughout the period since the triumph of the revolution, our universities have operated at above 100-percent capacity, and the only sector that has never closed and has continued its work and fulfilled its obligation is the universities, and they must be appreciated.

Dr. Mo'in said: With regard to the shortage of school principals, our universities, both the night schools and the day schools, are at the service of the Ministry of Education and Training and are willing to give them scholarships. If the problem has to do with scholarships, it is not a higher education problem. We are willing to give all the students to the Ministry of Education and Training.

The minister of culture and higher education discussed the measures taken by this ministry to raise the educational level and the knowledge of students during the last few years. He said: In this regard, four-month around-the-clock preuniversity programs have been held in nine of the nation's deprived provinces, with government approval, and this is the greatest help to the deprived areas.

Second: The establishment of preuniversity complexes in eight of the nation's deprived provinces was an effective step for discovering and nurturing creative ethnic talents.

Third: Requiring preuniversity remedial classes at the universities themselves for one or two half-years, which are being held for all weak students.

Fourth: Careful observation of educational rules and regulations, and revising the educational regulations from the war era.

Fifth: Reforming the important indicator, the teacher-student ratio. Currently, despite the rapid increase in the number of students, this ratio has reached one to 20.

Sixth: Controlling the level of conditional students, so that based on precise statistics, at the beginning of 1372 [21 Mar 1993], the average percentage of conditional students in all universities was 10 percent.

Dr. Mo'in discussed the quantity and quality of students. He added: Our rate of graduations increased between the years 1368 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] and 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994], and currently at the expert level 87.5 percent of our students graduate within five years.

He added: In the last four years we have presented the nation with 84,600 graduates at the expert level and above.

He noted: With regard to quality, we have not permitted every student to obtain credentials. In accordance with the guidelines, whoever is weak graduates at a lower level or receives equivalent credentials, and receives those employment benefits.

In conclusion Dr. Mo'in said: For my part, I praise and thank the management of the nation's education for their work.

It is worth mentioning that since the deputy from Tehran announced that the answer was not adequate, his question was referred to the Majles Articles 90 and 88 Commission.

Answer From the Islamic Labor Councils of the Azarin and Alvand National Industrial Group to the Deputy from Bijar's Speech

Following a pre-agenda speech given 3/6/1372 [27 May 1993] by Mohammad 'Ali Moqanian, deputy from Bijar, in which he discussed the national industrial exploration group, a response came to us from the Islamic National Azarin and Alvand Industrial Working Group Council, to whose text we direct your attention.

By way of explanation concerning the pre-agenda speech of Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Moqanian, representative of the noble and zealous people of Bijar, during his talk Mr. Moqanian said accusatory, insulting, and unpleasant things concerning the lawful representatives of the workers in the Islamic labor councils and the board of directors of the worker consumer cooperative of the National Industrial Group. For the information of the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, and in view of Article 22 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which stipulates that "the prestige, lives, assets, rights, housing, and employment of individuals are protected from attack," we announce the following:

1 - The officials of the Islamic labor councils of the Azarin and Alvand National Industrial Group, with 13,000 personnel, during a meeting dated 2/28/1372 [18

May 1993], authorized the the Coordinating Council elected by the councils to hold a press conference to clarify issues related to the National Industrial Group. Thus, the statements made by the respected deputy to the effect that the meeting of nine people was held by a tendentious and antilabor group for the purpose of avoiding giving an answer to the Ministry of Industries and to prevent possible violations was not correct. The meeting between the officials of the councils had nothing to do with the letter sent by the respected Industries Commission to the Ministry of Industries. Moreover, we consider the statement by the respected deputy that the participants at the meeting were limited to nine individuals to whom he referred in insulting terms, people whose records of service throughout the years of the revolution and the imposed war are clear to everyone, and almost all of whom are revolutionary combatants, war veterans or families of martyrs, to be absolutely unacceptable.

2 - The goal of the aforementioned press conference, as is shown in the newspaper ABRAR dated 3/3/1372 [24 May 1993], included:

(A) to thank the exalted leader and the nation's judicial apparatus for confiscating the assets of Mohammad Rahim Irvani, a capitalist from the National Industrial Group who fled the country

(B) to announce willingness to buy the shares of the National Industrial Group in implementing the economic policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

(C) to refute the rumor that there will be mass worker discharges because the National Industrial Group is bankrupt, which was a self-interested effort made in concert with foreign radio broadcasts to incite public opinion and create an unhealthy climate, to muddy the waters and to discredit the luminous face of the Islamic revolution in its dealing with the imperialists and capitalists who have fled the country on the one hand and to defeat the new economic programs of the government of the Islamic Republic on the other.

3 - Finally, to clarify things for the noble nation of Iran, it is acknowledged that those participating in the press conference are God-worshipping Muslims, aware of the issues of the day and of worker issues who work and have worked fairly to serve the toiling labor class, to achieve rights, to prevent the clear and covert violations of the small number of godless individuals who in years past trampled the rights of thousands of toiling workers in the National Industrial Group. The conference participants have so far stood firmly against the dastardly tricks of these individuals, and their simple lives bespeak the sincerity of their work.

At the same time we have two complaints against the respected deputy, who considers himself a member of the noble worker class and one of our old colleagues in the group. The first is that his source or sources of information in the group did not convey the information to him properly, and consequently haste can be seen in his judgments. Second, it is regrettable, in view of his spirit of seeking justice and redress from the nation's judiciary and police forces in the aforementioned speech in order to preserve his human dignity and position, that he used words in the same speech such as tendentious, antiworker, godless, ignorant, covert violators, plunderers of the public treasury, profiteers, opportunist and others to refer to the workers in this group. Respected deputy, all of us and you must be guardians of the government and its values, and we must be loyal soldiers for the leader, Islam and the Koran, and we must refrain from raising issues that bring the economy and the government into question under circumstances when all the sworn enemies of the revolution are waiting in ambush.

* 16 Jun

93LA0109A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Jun 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday and the deputies from Babol, Hamadan, Behbehan, and Kuhdasht gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings of the Majles.

Mehdi Nariman, Deputy From Babol

Since our revolution has the same glory and splendor it had in the era of the Imam, it is threatened and attacked this way.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Nariman, deputy from Babol. During his speech he said: I say with confidence that the nation of Iran and its millions of masses in the current age is better than the nation of the Hijaz in the time of the Prophet of God (peace be upon him) and Hoseyn ibn 'Ali. What a good judgment that four years after the passing of that great man, this great nation is still participating with solidarity in public affairs and guarding the genuine values of the revolution.

Those who speak with hesitation about the fading of the exalted values of the revolution, who cry out to purge the heart of our land and who are frightened by the imperialists, are severely mistaken. With a gesture from the Imam's worthy successor, they have the same ability to create a splendid epic that they had in the era of the Imam.

He added: To those who obstinately see the values of the revolution as having faded, I say look carefully. Don't they hear the roar of that sacred cry now, like the cries of our late Imam, from the mouth of his worthy successor, as he supports the deprived, calls out for justice and gives instructions to the poor? Who and what system, other than Islamic Iran, brushes off the dust of deathly silence and compromise sprinkled over the nations of Palestine, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Herczgovina, and attacks the world devourers with no regard for interests?

The speaker likewise added: I say decisively that if it were not for the steadfastness and resistance of our government in the face of the imperialist impurities, if it were not for the uncompromising stand of our leaders in the face of criminal America, if it were not for the all-out defense of the views and ideas of our late Imam, today we would not see the new economic, political, and military plots for our revolution being cut off. Since our revolution has the same glory and splendor it had in the era of the Imam and the same value slogans are at the top of its agenda, it is threatened and attacked this way.

He congratulated Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his reelection as president of the republic, and he emphasized the critical responsibility of being a Majles deputy. He said: The deputies can supervise by using the progressive and advanced principles of the Constitution and by employing the weapons of memos, questions, and interpellations, and in this way they can defend the rights of their constituents.

Now the question remains, if in the presentation of the Council of Ministers, which is a special prerogative of the president of the republic, we go beyond consultation, thinking together and coordination in such a way that the question arises that it might be the Majles who is presenting the ministers, and if tomorrow mistakes are made, will it be possible to use the weapons of memos, questions, and interpellations in the same free and open way it is done today? Will we not be faced with the answer that we presented him in this or that latter or at this or that meeting, and won't we be asked why we are asking questions and splitting hairs?

In any case, in order to achieve a more authoritative mix in the Council of Ministers, which every alert conscience demands, the subject must be treated with special care and delicacy. While preserving the special position of the Majles, the rights of the president of the republic must not be compromised, yet the weapons of supervision provided in the Constitution must still be used with force.

In conclusion, he offered congratulations on Jihad Week to all crusaders and relevant officials.

Ahmad Habibian, Deputy From Hamadan

Because of not having sufficient budget and resources, the Accounting Court and the Accounting Commission have not been able to fulfill their responsibilities in the way desired by the revolution and the leader of this government.

The next speaker was Habibian, deputy from Hamadan. In his speech he said: Undoubtedly all of you are suffering because of the loss of a lever of supervision that could be used to fulfill your responsibilities, as is appropriate, in investigating violations in the government organizations. It is true that based on the Constitution the Majles has the Accounting Commission under an aggregate known as the Accounting Court, which has the job of liquidating the budget and investigating the financial actions of the government, but let me say quickly and truthfully that unfortunately so far this commission and court have been under oppression and because of not having sufficient budget and resources, the Accounting Court and the Accounting Commission have not been able to fulfill their responsibilities in the way desired by the revolution and the leader of this government.

He added: You know that the Majles has two main responsibilities. One is to make law and the other is to supervise its implementation. Therefore half of its resources should be used for the second dimension, meaning supervision, but has it been that way so far? What message is sent by the creation of a [illegible] after a three- or four-month delay with a limited number of [illegible], the reduction in personnel in the Accounting Court to something like 600 people, although the revolution is 15 years old, and despite the huge volume of work and the development and growth by the millions in budget numbers and figures? In designing the budget, did anyone think of putting this supervisory organization in order?

If the dear ones expect our government to be a sound government in accordance with its Islamic position, and if they expect not even one rial to be embezzled, if you want officials in violation to be identified and to be given their lawful punishment, then in accordance with the Constitution, let the organizations affiliated with the government, including the ministries, municipalities, banks and companies, be subject to accounting without any exception except by order of the leader.

'Ali Emamirad, Deputy From Kuhdasht and Chegini

I hope that the president of the republic will answer the confidence of the people by forming a capable, coordinated and committed cabinet. [Passage omitted on the elections]

Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati, Deputy From Behbehan

Currently, the need is greater than ever to set prices and control distribution.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mr. Zare'i-Qanavati. At the beginning of his speech he offered congratulations on the reelection of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the president of the republic, and he asked God to help him implement the laws as carefully and as well as possible.

In part of his speech he said: The people expect the establishment of social justice and the elimination of discrimination, which are the exalted goals of Islam and the Islamic Republic. In the past, because of the abuse of the country's special position and sometimes factional naivete, a few people acquired enormous wealth and illicit money, and with this inflated wealth they assaulted the values of the revolution, exploiting the deprived people. This shows the bitter truth that the next government must use 'Ali's scourge on the backs of the idolaters to reduce and eliminate this discrimination, and cleanse the Islamic society.

Continuing, he discussed the importation of unnecessary goods into the country. He said: Concerning the import of goods, with or without the transfer of foreign exchange, there need to be a revision and a political direction on imports and a reappraisal of customs levies. While the hospitals are faced with a shortage or even the lack of stitches, serum and necessary drugs, various kinds of sound and image equipment, musical tools and implements and luxury goods are being imported without any restrictions. The government must therefore supervise this matter with sufficient care.

He said: The need to set prices, control distribution and support consumers is more sensitive than ever. It is necessary that the goods produced be specified so that the consumer knows his responsibility. One must not permit the owners and sellers of goods to exploit consumers on the pretext of supply and demand. The government must continue its programs as planned, but one must not permit every person to fleece the people in order to reach his goal.

Continuing his remarks, he discussed the fighters for the Islamic revolution. He said: We must not forget those who have sacrificed for the revolution, who spent the best days of their lives for Islam and the revolution, even though these dear ones had no goal other than God. Rather, by implementing proper policies, appreciation must be shown for those who sacrificed and fought for the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, the deputy from Behbehan issued a memo to executive officials asking for further investigation of officials in his electoral district in matters of drugs and health care.

Boyer Ahmad Deputy's Question to Minister of Energy

In explaining his question, Mr. Hoseyni said:

1 - In view of the fact that several months ago financial issues were raised in the Yasuj Electric Company and the subject was raised with the respected minister by telephone, in writing and in person, up until now what measures have been taken to reform management and protect the public treasury?

2 - Announce the amount of annual national credits given to the Fars Regional Water Organization since the revolution, according to year, and specify the amount allocated to the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad throughout the years of the revolution, the projects implemented in the province using national credits, and the reason.

Concerning the above questions, he said: Until a year or two ago, the Khuzestan Electric Organization was in charge of the electric company in our province. In the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] the province electric company was divided and management was specified for it. This electricity did not take the form of a network, it was produced with diesel motors and generators. He added: In order to specify the assets of this company, formerly it was supervised by the Khuzestan Regional Electric Organization. There was a change and an evolution and inventories were done of goods and merchandise. During the inventory changes in the building equipment in existing documents were taken elsewhere by individuals.

He said: On 9/12/1371 [3 Dec 1992] an effort was made to inform the minister of energy via the appropriate channels who were aware of this matter. On 10/9/1371 [29 Dec 1992] the matter was announced, and in the interim we have made contact twice by telephone, and once we sent it all in a letter, but nothing happened.

The deputy from Yasuj then discussed the second question. He said: Since the time of the revolution, in view of the fact that water for the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad was managed under the supervision of the Fars Regional Water Organization, please announce, how much of the national credits, which were given to this organization, have been spent so far? What projects have you implemented? According to him, almost one-fourth of the country's water is in this province.

Minister of Energy's Answer

In answer to the questions from the deputy from Yasuj, Engineer Zanganeh said: I hope this question will be a means of defending those who have been at issue ends for several months and whose reputations have been under attack.

The Electric Company of Kohkiluye va Boyer Ahmad Province is one of the subsidiaries of the Khuzestan Water and Electric Organization, which was formed last year to strengthen electrical service in the province. At the same time the municipality of Yasuj was added to the national electrical network. He discussed the arrest of 12 electrical personnel in the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad and the sealing of all the company's reservoirs. He said: Our system was inoperative for a full month. With God's help, nothing happened and no matter how much we asked that one person be released at least to do the work, nothing was done, it was not successful. Again we sent an official auditor so we could audit that place. I say plainly, to this point there are no accusations (not that were proven, neither in the court or through acknowledgement of individuals, that were reported to us). They have given us no document showing an abuse has taken place. If we had had documents, apart from the fact that we would have complained, we would have turned the matter over to the Violations Council for investigation, and the violators would have been given the most severe penalties.

Now if no accusations against anyone have been proven, on what authorization are we going to fire them? If I do it just because there is political pressure on us, tomorrow how will I answer God? (Of course all of them have been released on bond.)

Engineer Zanganeh then said: The total energy sold in the year 1371 is 45.1 percent of all the nation's total consumer energy, and 263 million megawatts were sold. The number of subscriptions assigned in the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] was about 2,200 and in the

year 1371 it was 2,400. The company's financial flow, meaning its revenues from lines, was 29 million tomans in the year 1371.

They held an official press conference and said that they stole 200 million tomans. How could 200 million tomans be stolen? Or they said that 300 transformers were stolen. The entry and exit for this is specific. How could they be stolen? I am not saying that all these individuals are innocent, but I am saying that as long as it remains unproven, we cannot consider them criminals. For the same reason, we cannot fire them. Isn't a believer's reputation just like his blood? I would consider it a breach of trust to fire innocent people under political pressure.

Continuing his remarks, the minister of energy also said: In the year 1360 [21 Mar 1981-20 Mar 1982], the water credits in the aforementioned province were only 1 million tomans. In the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] this figure increased to 19.5 tomans. In the year 1371 it increased to 159.5 and in the year 1372 it has reached 260 million tomans. In the same year, the province water credits in Bushehr and the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad was about the same amount.

With regard to national projects, I must say that national projects follow national decisions, not secondary decisions. If we were to make secondary calculations, many of our municipalities and districts are bigger than this province. That is, the district of Eslamshahr near Tehran is bigger than the entire province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad in terms of population. We are doing a series of studies right now on province credits in the aforementioned province, and, God willing, if they go forward, we will be able to make recommendations for the Second Five-Year Plan.

Deputy From Boyer Ahmad's Further Remarks

He said that they held a press conference. Who held a press conference? We had no special conversations anywhere except with him, and we even tried to keep the issue from becoming public. Therefore the press conference was through some other means and they have reasons and documents through which they themselves came to this conclusion.

With regard to the second question I asked, I was asking about the national project. He said nothing. If the government authorizes Behbehan to be part of our province, since that is for Behbehan, it is necessary to mention that since the beginning of the revolution no project from the national program has been implemented. These things he mentioned are from province credits. Despite the fact that a maximum of 3 percent of the girls in our society makes use of these elementary schools, my question is, what was done with these credits?

Concerning his first question, he said: We are not saying fire them, we are talking about reforming management.

Mr. Hoseyni added: Individuals in collaboration with one another went to the reconstruction crusade and got transformers and exchanged the transformers at their work places and sold them, and there is a report on this.

Minister of Energy's Further Answer

In a further answer to the comments by the deputy from Yasuj and Boyer Ahmad, Mr. Zanganeh said: It would have been good if Mr. Hoseyni had presented all these reasons and testimony beforehand. If there are documents, the investigator and the court should have convicted them. Why are they holding them back? We cannot speak without documents and evidence. I absolutely will not give a suspension order because I have no evidence. A verdict must not be issued for someone who has not spoken and against whom charges have not been proven.

He added: I ask Mr. Hoseyni to help in the province. With this climate that is in the province, one cannot take the same kind of approach. He should help so that we can do more work there. The preliminary step for doing work is for someone to earn the confidence that he can do the work.

Concerning development work, Mr. Zanganeh said: Concerning development work, there are many projects in the Second Five-Year Plan. We agree that there is room for further development in this province, and this requires time.

After the completion of the remarks by the minister of energy, the deputy from Boyer Ahmad and Yasuj was not satisfied and the matter was referred to the Questions Investigation Committee.

Legislation

Four More Articles From Free Trade and Industrial Zones Bill Approved

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the details of the bill on Free Trade and Industrial Zones Administrative Procedures for the Islamic Republic of Iran, for which four more articles were approved by the Majles. Based on Article 12 of this bill:

The ministries, organizations, institutions, government companies, and companies not affiliated with the government must sign the necessary contracts to provide means and services within each zone within the limits of the measures passed by the Supreme Council, the organization or its affiliated companies. The conditions for these kinds of contracts will be such that they will preserve the zone's competitive position compared to the free zones in other countries.

Article 13: With the approval of the Supreme Council, the organization in each zone may collect taxes in exchange for urban services and for providing means for communication, health care, cultural affairs, education and welfare for real and legal persons living in the zone.

Article 14: Within each zone, the issuance of authorization to carry out any kind of authorized economic activity, to create buildings and installations and to engage in various kinds of employment by real and legal persons concerning occupations that are not being worked in, is the prerogative of the organization.

Article 15: Regulations pertaining to the employment of manpower, insurance, social security, and the issuance of visas for the zones will be done under guidelines to be approved by the Council of Ministers after validation by the Supreme Council.

Motion To Amend the Law Guaranteeing Purchase of Agricultural Crops

The final item on the agenda was the very urgent motion to amend the Law to Guarantee the Purchase of Agricultural Crops, whose general form and details were discussed and studied in the presence of members of the Guardian Council. Continued consideration of the motion was deferred to the next session.

If this motion is approved, silk cocoons and raisins will also be covered by the Law Guaranteeing Purchase of Basic Agricultural Crops. The Law Guaranteeing the Purchase of Basic Agricultural Crops of 1367 guaranteed the purchase of wheat, barley, rice, sugar beets, unginned cotton, oil-bearing seeds, tea, potatoes, and onions.

The Majles will meet in open session next week on Thursday morning.

Alviri's Answer to Deputy From Damavand and Firuzkuh's Speech

Concerning the pre-agenda speech by Ahmad Rasulinezhad, deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh, at the latest open Majles session, a letter was sent to the Majles speaker by Morteza Alviri, consultant to the president of the republic, and the letter was also provided to the newspaper for publication. We direct your attention to its text:

In view of the fact that Mr. Ahmad Rasulinezhad, deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh, told lies about me in his pre-agenda speech dated 3/25/1372 [15 Jun 1993], I request that you give me an opportunity to explain and clarify in order to respond to the accusations, slander and lies he disseminated from the sacred podium of the Majles, in accordance with the criteria that His Holiness the Imam (may his grave be sanctified) set forth (the text below [as published] is Article 77 of the Majles Internal Guidelines).

*** 20 Jun**

93LA0111A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 June 93 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri. At this session, after talks by the deputies from Mian-e Do Ab, Darab, Khodabandeh, Bukan, and Baneh, the Majles took up its agenda. Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the first item on the Majles agenda was the details of the very urgent motion to amend the Guaranteed Purchase of Basic Agricultural Crops Law, which was approved. Then another article of the Free Trade and Industrial Zones Administrative Procedures Bill was approved. The full report on the open Majles session appears below.

Jalal Rasuli, Deputy From Mian-e Do Ab

The people expect the government and the respected president of the republic they have elected to perform their historic responsibility sincerely and honestly.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Jalal Rasuli, deputy from Mian-e Do Ab, Nekab, and Shahindar. During his talk he discussed the election for president of the republic. He said: In the sixth election for president of the republic, once again the combative and martyr-nurturing nation of our country following the Imam's line and obeying the exalted has stepped out into the light and played its historic role well in guarding the divine values of our Islamic revolution. With full freedom and political zeal, it thwarted practically all the plots and vain ideas of the enemies of the Islamic nation. I feel the utmost in gratitude to the people of my electoral precinct in the municipalities of Mian-e Do Ab, Nekab, and Shahindar. They participated in the elections with their extensive turnout and gave about 70 percent of their votes to Mr. Hashemi, a person of quality and a concerned clergyman, who, according to the leader, is one of the pillars of the Islamic revolution. I congratulate his excellency on this great triumph in receiving the support of the people.

He then added: Now that at this sensitive stage in the history of our revolution the people have done their duty so sincerely and well and have placed the heavy burden of divine trust on Mr. Hashemi's shoulders, society has taken hold of many problems. On the other hand, the people expect the government and the respected president of the republic they have elected to perform their historic responsibility sincerely and honestly.

Bureaucracy and paper shuffling have made the people helpless. In our offices the people do not engage in Islamic behavior. The workers in the offices take out their frustrations with low wages and high prices on their clients. There is no supervision and control over the activities of the executive officials, and they are not accountable for their work. Although society's foreign exchange and economic system is undergoing change, and the government has decided to act henceforth towards economic prosperity in society according to a calculated plan, and not on the basis of feelings and emotions. Just as we see in commercial and market transactions, a remarkable instability of prices prevails, and there is no logic at all in the price increases or in the rare price decreases.

There is no authority who is responsible for the unsuccessful application of government penalties for selling at high prices and creating instability in society's economic affairs. Each person does whatever he wants to do. For

example, a 5-kg can of oil increases from 500 tomans to 1,250 tomans. Powdered laundry detergent doubles its former price. The 40-toman, serum which is needed for patients in emergency rooms especially in this season when its price is about 40 tomans, cannot even be found for 2,000 tomans. The banks are not acting on their commitment to give the people the means to start producing and creating employment projects, or they act on it very badly. One can get loans from the banks on commercial matters at huge profits of up to about 48 percent, which is very inflationary.

However, a farmer or a rural person is faced with every waste of time, paper shuffling, and document preparation trying to get seed capital for agricultural and animal husbandry work or for handicrafts such as woven carpets, and most of the time they do not succeed in getting the loan they need. The best use is not made of the government's development resources and the executive ability of the organizations, especially the government companies. With the same capital or less, can the private companies get a return of several times as much?

Continuing his speech, Jalal Rasuli said: In budget and planning work, despite the fact that they are apparently giving priority to semicompleted projects, many semicompleted projects have remained in that state throughout the revolution, and the people have given up on their completion. Examples in my electoral district are the Shahindar Hospital and the Martyr Eskandarzadeh Station of Mian-e Do Ab, the drinking water project in Nekab, the study for the Semineh Rud dam project, the Nekab-Zanjan and Mian-e Do Ab-Zanjan roads projects and the road from Sahbod Kalantari to Urmia, and so on.

Continuing, he said: Mr. president of the republic: I have said the above not because of a narrow view and a failure to understand the striking successes we have had in reconstruction and in advancing the goals of the Islamic revolution, but I wanted to ask why we must allow the concerned servants of the Islamic revolution, of whom you, after the exalted leader, are most prominent, to be questioned or God forbid to be sacrificed because of the failure to deal with and be aware of the improper performance and do-nothing practices of a handful of [illegible] and welfare seekers? God willing, all the aforementioned problems will be solved in the Second Five-Year Plan with decisive steps by that leader and treasure of the revolution.

At the end of his speech, the deputy from Mian-e Do Ab praised and thanked the Ministry of Petroleum for implementing the project to deliver gas to Mian-e Do Ab and the management in the governor-general's office in the province of West Azarbaijan, especially the respected governor-general, for doing a good job of conducting the election for president of the republic.

Hoseyn Rashidi, Deputy From Darab

My question to the minister of the interior is, why do they permit insurgents and smugglers to pass through Sistan va Baluchestan?

Hoseyn Rashidi, deputy from Darab, who used three minutes of the time of the deputy from Mian-e Do Ab, was the second pre-agenda speaker. During his speech he discussed the savage crimes of the nasty and evil insurgents in the village in the area of Darab. He said: Once again the agents and mercenaries of world imperialism, the merchants of death and arms smugglers, have created a terrifying and painful disaster and created an ugly and brutal scene, which will always be a shameful stain on those who claim to be defending human rights and it created permanent hatred and contempt for those submissive agents and parasitic slaves of imperialism and exploitation.

My question to the minister of the interior is, why do they permit these deluded people and servants of imperialism to pass through the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan and Kerman, and to come without facing any obstacles into the area, which with its vast area and great sensitivity has no police station, and to coldly and mercilessly create such a disaster? Why don't they defend the deprived and defenseless regions in this area? How long will we continue to see such disastrous and shocking actions? I firmly demand that the respected minister of the interior establish a base as soon as possible with full and sufficient force and equipment and the ability to guard the Sarkuh Darab area so that these criminals and enemies of humanity can be gotten out of the village and consequently the province of Fars will be secure and safe from their aggression.

I call upon the respected officials of other government organizations, especially the revolutionary guards, to establish a special unit there to secure the aforementioned area.

He then added: With the existence of rich and fruitful agricultural lands, I ask the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, and the Province Regional Water Organization to transfer land to the deprived and needy people in this area as soon as possible in order to create favorable conditions for employing the village people and to develop agriculture.

I ask the Ministry of the Interior to create safe and secure areas, which have already been identified, as soon as possible in which to collect the scattered hamlets of this deprived and defenseless village, so that steps can be taken to supply welfare and security resources and so that we will see no more of these terrifying scenes.

At the same time, I ask the officials of the Ministry of Education and Training to build an elementary school and girls' and boys' Rahnema'i schools in the aforementioned rural area and in other rural areas, which have been established in new places and are living in tents so we will not face difficulties in the coming academic year. I ask the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade to secure drinking water for the aforementioned camp as soon as possible.

I sincerely thank the organizations and groups who took steps during last year's flood and also to heal the pains of those who were hurt in the recent disaster.

Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Musavi, Deputy From Khodabandeh

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Musavi, deputy from Khodabandeh. He discussed the wide public turnout in the elections for the sixth term of president of the republic. He said: It is now up to the respected president of the republic, with the utmost care and deliberation, as in the past, and also with the support of the respected Majles, to put forth his greatest efforts and to take worthy steps to solve existing problems, some of which are the result of the unification of the foreign exchange rate.

The deputy from Khodabandeh then discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: The municipality of Khodabandeh is the only municipality in the country within 300 km of Tehran, which is completely deprived. Of its 272 villages, 28 are uninhabited and about 140 of its villages, most of which have 50 to 200 families, are without electricity, and about 120 villages lack sanitary drinking water. Many of the people in the villages in the district of Garmab even use the hot and muddy water from the Qazal Uzan River.

He added: Because of the lack of production and industrial centers and employment in the area, unemployment is rampant and for this reason they are sending most of the emigrants in the province to the large cities such as Safarabad, Zanjan, Alvand-e Qazvin, Aksarabad, Qel'eh [illegible] Ne'matabad of Tehran, and the Qom Power Station.

Mr. Musavi issued a memo to the minister of roads and transportation concerning paving, repairing and asphalting the intercity roads between Khodabandeh and Zanjan and Khodabandeh and Kabutarahang, and he asked the minister of agriculture to make more effort to revive and develop the outskirts of Qazal Uzan in Sahur Nurfan in the district of Garmab.

Ahmad Taha, Deputy From Bukan

The president of the republic must choose capable, knowledgeable, experienced, and distinguished ministers and put them in charge of affairs.

Another pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Ahmad, deputy from Bukan. He discussed the wide public turnout in the election for the sixth term of president of the republic. He said: The vote of the nation was a reflection of goals and aspirations, the manifestation of their will and determination, and a glorification of their desires and expectations.

He added: The nation must always design the image of its own destiny and be the architect of the structure of its life, and the effort should be made so that this image be as elegant and beautiful as possible, and that this structure have the utmost in delicacy and beauty.

Addressing the newly elected president of the republic, he said: I ask the president of the republic, while consulting and seeking opinions, to solve the problems and do the work, and to choose capable, knowledgeable, experienced and distinguished ministers and put them in charge of affairs, and by designating and appointing committed, trustworthy and specialist ministers and consultants, to be confident in the health, soundness and reliability of what they do.

He emphasized: If the sound of oppression and deprivation arises from every corner of the country, all of us are responsible, and you most of all. On the scales of history's judgement, before the nation and before God, not a particle of what we do will be hidden or concealed.

Elsewhere in his speech, the deputy from Bukan offered congratulations on Reconstruction Crusade Week and to the judicial power, and he expressed the hope that the spirit of justice will breathe in the body of the nation and that everyone will work to implement it.

He said that justice guarantees the survival, growth and evolution of society. He said: Justice is a manifestation of the mercy and blessings of God and the protector of culture, courtesy, security and humanity and it creates solidarity, cooperation, mutual understanding, progress, and honor.

Mr. Taha then discussed the problems and issues in his electoral district. In this regard he said: I ask the respected chief of the judiciary to change Legal Court 2 in the municipality of Bukan to a municipal court and to complete its construction, and at the same time to develop and expand the special civil courts in the Sunni areas. For study and revision, the opinions issued for this purpose by the special civil courts should be created in the National Supreme Court and in the special branches so that the investigation of these kinds of cases, with a decisive opinion, can also take place with knowledge, awareness and understanding in the National Supreme Court.

He also asked for the construction of an oil precinct office in Bukan and for the Ministry of Petroleum to connect a gas delivery line to this municipality. He issued a memo to the minister of mines and metals to expedite completion of studies and the extraction and utilization of the Bukan bauxite mine and the purchase and installation of a factory to convert bauxite to alumina at the mine and in the municipality of Bukan.

He called for strengthening the Voice and Vision offices in Mehabad and Urmia and for the construction of a rail line from Maragheh to Bukan and from there to the western part of the country.

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Deputy From Saqz and Baneh

Unity of all forces around the idea of serving the people for the criteria of Islamic law and the Constitution will guarantee a better and brighter tomorrow.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Partovi, deputy from Saqz and Baneh. He discussed the three strategic slogans, the aspirations of Islam, preserving the gains of the revolution and establishing a just cultural, economic and social system. He

said: Naturally the realization of these three slogans requires calculated plans. Most important, the coordination and solidarity of all forces requires all officials to create a sound political atmosphere to advance the goals of the revolution. He added: Unity of all forces around the idea of serving the people for the criteria of Islamic law and the Constitution will manifest what we do better, and, following this comprehensive unity, will guarantee a bright tomorrow and victory for great Iran.

Partovi said that making the government conform to the criteria of law is the most genuine way to redress problems, meet needs and resolve the mysteries of progress and growth. He said: The exertion of power, influence, and factional domination outside the framework of legal criteria is an uneven path that is miles away from victory.

The deputy from Saqz and Baneh discussed the extensive public turnout in the elections. He said: The presence of more than 80 percent of the people of Kordestan in the elections bespeaks their commitment and renewed loyalty to the Islamic revolution, and it shows that our area does not have a problem, because there was a high percentage of participants compared to other provinces. It is not right that they talk about our area as having problems, because we all belong to one family, and there are happy and unhappy children in every family. It is up to the head and supervisor of the family to create a sound, pure and sincere atmosphere to make the unhappy children happy.

He added: Our people, who still bear the mark of deprivation on their foreheads, participated extensively in the election. They hope that with the political change of the era, the present economic growth and the thoughts of charitable people, officials will pay more attention to their needs.

Mr. Partovi said the preservation of authenticity and values is the rightful demand the people make of a just Islamic government. In conclusion he noted: Understanding the thoughts, intentions and desires of the people and obtaining these rights will put an end to the sad suffering of many years, it will conclude hard and heavy struggles, and will bring about more familiarity with the people and strengthening their ties.

Legislation

Motion To Guarantee Agricultural Crops Purchases

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the very urgent motion for the proposed Law To Amend the Law To Guarantee the Purchase of Basic Agricultural Crops, enacted 6/21/1368 [12 Sep 1989]. After study and discussion the deputies voted on the general form of the motion and it was approved.

The Majles then took up the details of the motion, of which Article 1 and its note were approved by the deputies.

Article 1: As of the date of this law's enactment, grapes, dates, dried apricots, citrus fruits, apples, pomegranates, grapes, livestock, and silkworm cocoons are included on the list of basic goods given in Article 1 of the Law To Guarantee the Purchase of Basic Agricultural Crops enacted 6/21/1368, and its notes.

Note: The credits needed to amend this law in the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] will come from Note 22 of the 1372 Budget Law, observing priorities for basic crops.

Law on Administrative Procedures for Free Trade Zones

The final item on the agenda was continued consideration of the Bill on Administrative Procedures for Free Trade and Industrial Zones of the Islamic Republic of Iran, of which another article was approved by the Majles. Based on Article 16: As of the date of this law's enactment, real and legal entities who are occupied in the free zone in various economic activities will be exempt for 15 years from the payment of the taxes on revenues and assets given in the Direct Taxes Law, and after 15 years they will be subject to special tax regulations to be proposed by the Supreme Council and approved by the Majles.